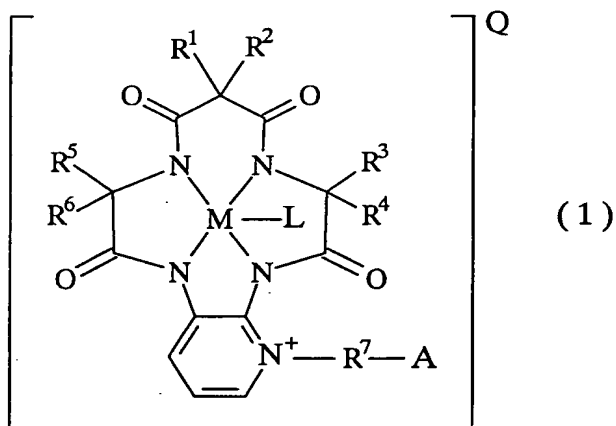


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A cyclic amide transition metal complex represented by formula

(1)



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, a C1 to C16 hydrocarbon, a perfluoroalkyl group or a halogen atom, R^7 represents an optionally substituted C1 to C18 alkylene or a perfluoroalkylene group, A represents a group having 1 to 3 quaternary ammonium groups substituted with a linear or branched alkyl group or linked with a linear or branched alkylene group, a cyclic quaternary ammonium group or a heterocyclic aromatic quaternary cation group which may be substituted with a linear or branched alkyl group, M represents a transition metal, L represents a ligand and Q represents an arbitrary counterion equilibrated stoichiometrically with a charge of the compound.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The cyclic amide transition metal complex according to claim 1, wherein in formula (1), R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 each represent a methyl group, R^7 represents a $-(CH_2)_n-$ group wherein n is an integer of 1 to 18, A represents $-N^+(CH_3)_2(C_mH_{2m+1})$ wherein m is an integer of 1 to 18, $-N^+(CH_3)_2-(CH_2)_p-N^+(CH_3)_3$ wherein p is an integer of 1 to 18, or a pyridinium group, and ~~Me~~ M is Fe(III).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A bleaching catalyst comprising the cyclic amide transition metal complex according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A bleaching composition comprising (a) a bleaching catalyst comprising the cyclic amide transition metal complex according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2 and (b) a peroxy bleaching agent selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide and a peroxide or an organic peracid generating hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous solution thereof.

Claim 5 (New): A bleaching catalyst comprising the cyclic amide transition metal complex according to claim 2.

Claim 6 (New): A bleaching composition comprising (a) a bleaching catalyst comprising the cyclic amide transition metal complex according to claim 2 and (b) a peroxy bleaching agent selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide and a peroxide or an organic peracid generating hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous solution thereof.

Claim 7 (New): A bleaching composition comprising the cyclic amide transition metal complex according to claim 1 and one or more additional agents.

Claim 8 (New): A bleaching composition comprising the cyclic amide transition metal complex according to claim 2 and one or more additional agents.